United Nations A/54/87

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 June 1999

Original: English

Fifty-fourth session
Item 90 of the preliminary list*

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

Rapporteur: Mr. Hossam **Zaki** (Egypt)

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 53/58 of 3 December 1998 welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/53/127), decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reiterated that those Member States that became personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or that participated in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers should, upon a written request to the Chairman, become members at the following session of the Committee. The members and observers of the Special Committee at its 1999 session are listed in annex II to the present report.

3. At its 151st meeting, on 24 March 1999, the Special Committee elected the following representatives as the Committee's officers for a term of office of one year: Ambassador Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman; Ambassador Fernando Enrique Petrella (Argentina), Ambassador Michel Duval (Canada), Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa (Japan) and Mr. Zbigniew Matuszewski (Poland), Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Hossam Zaki (Egypt), Rapporteur.

4. The Special Committee also discussed its organization of work and decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Canada, to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/58.

5. The general debate was followed by discussions in the informal open-ended Working Group, which met between 30 March and 23 April 1999.

II. General debate and Working Group considerations

6. At its 151st to 156th meetings, held from 24 to 26 March 1999, the Special Committee held a general debate on the matters before it.

7. In his statement before the Committee at its 151st meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations highlighted that United Nations peacekeeping continues to be a very dynamic, an ', often a very demanding task. He noted that, while three missions had drawn to the close in the past year, two new operations had been

* A/54/50

99-18458 (E) 240699

established, and contingency planning was ongoing for potential additional operations under consideration.

8. The Under-Secretary-General emphasized the positive partnerships that the United Nations had forged with regional and subregional organizations in the past year, citing operations in the Central African Republic and Sierra Leone as examples. He cautioned, however, that regional efforts could not supplant the role of United Nations peacekeeping, nor become a model of response to the extent that certain conflicts or regions of the world would be given unequal and/or unfair treatment. He highlighted, in this regard, that the United Nations is accorded the primary role for the maintenance of international peace and security by its Charter.

9. The Under-Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to four of the Department's long-term priorities, as follows: to enhance the security and safety of peacekeepers in the field; to strengthen African peacekeeping capacities; to develop understanding of the role of civilian police in peacekeeping; and to promote gender balance at Headquarters and in the field. He used the occasion to pay tribute to those peacekeepers who had lost their lives in the preceding year, which had seen a growing number of attacks on unarmed personnel in increasingly threatening security environments. He therefore warmly welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 49/59 of 9 December 1994. He summarized the initiatives to strengthen African peacekeeping capacity, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (A/52/871–S/1998/318). The Under-Secretary-General also informed the Special Committee that two of the eight civilian heads of peacekeeping operations in the field were now women, which was indicative of a step in the right direction towards gender balance.

10. The Under-Secretary-General summarized the main managerial concerns confronting the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He indicated that the most pressing issue was the restructuring and reform of the Department following the phasing out of gratis personnel, which had been concluded on time, in accordance with the General Assembly's decision. He added that the recruitment of replacements for those personnel had been conducted in an unprecedentedly swift manner, with transparency and due regard for geographic distribution.

11. The Under-Secretary-General highlighted that all military and civilian police expertise would be consolidated in the newly created Military and Civilian Police Division. The Division, under the direction of the Military Adviser, would operate with strengthened mechanisms and procedures of coordination and consultation with the Offices of the two Assistant Secretaries-General. The Under-Secretary-General mentioned the transformation of the Office of Planning and Support into the Office of Logistics, Management and Mine Action. He also informed the Committee that the transfer of the Situation Centre into the Office of Operations had been completed as had the integration of the Policy Analysis Unit and the Lessons Learned Unit under the direct authority of the Under-Secretary-General.

12. During the general debate which followed, delegations expressed appreciation for the timely submission of the report of the Secretary-General to the Committee.

13. Many delegations stressed that peacekeeping operations must conform strictly to the guiding principles, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, of consent of the parties, impartiality, and the non-use of force except in self-defence. Those principles had been reiterated in the previous report of the Special Committee (paras. 47–50) and were essential to the success of such operations. Delegations also stressed the need for clearly defined mandates and secure financing. They reaffirmed the primary role of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security and emphasized that there was a need for a fundamental reappraisal of the capacity of the United Nations to deal with new challenges and problems in peacekeeping.

14. Many delegations highlighted that peacekeeping could no longer be viewed as a distinct and isolated event, but should be treated instead as an important element of a continuum of responses to increasingly complex contemporary conflicts, stretching from preventative diplomacy to post-conflict peace-building. Many delegations expressed the view that the scope of peacekeeping had to be multidisciplinary in nature and not solely restricted to military tasks, but also to include civilian police activities, humanitarian assistance, disarmament and demobilization measures, actions against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and human rights monitoring. A number of delegations supported the view that a multidisciplinary approach also entailed addressing not only the symptoms of the conflicts, but their underlying causes as well, which were often based on socio-economic problems. While the view was expressed that mandates of peacekeeping missions should not be extended indefinitely once they had already completed their assigned tasks, it was also suggested that the imposition of "sunset clauses" could lead to disengagement prior to the resolution of conflicts.

15. A number of delegations highlighted that the growing contact of peacekeepers with the civilian population, including women and children creates a need for personnel that are more gender sensitive, and they stressed the need for integrating a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations.

16. At the same time, many delegations cautioned against blurring the distinctions between peacekeeping and humanitarian action, as each contained unique elements and tasks. It was also stressed that the roles of the General Assembly and Security Council in the areas of humanitarian assistance and peace-building should be in line with the responsibilities accorded to each of them in the Charter of the United Nations. On a related matter, it was underlined that the consent of the host Government should be obtained, when establishing political offices after the withdrawal of a peacekeeping operation.

17. A view was expressed as to the need for the Special Committee to differentiate a peacekeeping operation from a United Nations mission which may include various components, such as a peacekeeping operation, humanitarian assistance, electoral assistance, post-conflict peace-building and others. It was explained that all of those components, including the peacekeeping operation, may come under the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, whereas a peacekeeping operation is under the operational command of a Force Commander. This differentiation would contribute to the achievement of unity and continuity of United Nations efforts in the field.

18. Many delegations emphasized the need for early consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council, as well as with the Secretariat, both during the planning process for new missions, and the expansion of existing ones. It was also proposed that consultations with contributors and potential contributors include those countries especially affected by a crisis, and that consideration should be given to the inclusion of host countries in contributor meetings.

19. Many delegations also emphasized that the Security Council should adopt a flexible approach as to the form of these consultations, not to limit them solely to troop contributors but also to include, whenever appropriate, countries especially affected and other countries from the regions concerned.

20. It was emphasized that commitment to the goals of peace and security was meaningless without a plan to foster sustained economic growth and sustainable development and that development programmes should be considered as an important mechanism for addressing some of the problems that often arise with conflicts. A number of delegations expressed the importance of transparency in the process of selecting troop contributors.

21. Many delegations welcomed the completion of the phasing out of gratis personnel from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In that regard, they stressed that the Secretariat had had ample time to plan for the phasing out of gratis personnel and therefore, the adverse effects should have been limited. Many other delegations raised concerns that the departure of the gratis personnel might adversely affect the Department's capacities.

22. It was reiterated that the proliferation of small arms remained a constant challenge to ensuring lasting peace, and in this context, arms control and disarmament measures could be an essential part of an integrated approach to peacekeeping and conflict prevention.

23. Many delegations requested clarification as to the criteria and methodology employed in the recruitment of replacements for the gratis personnel, and emphasized the need for strict adherence to the Charter's principles of geographic distribution in that process. Some delegations expressed the view that, aside from the gratis personnel issue, a fundamental structural review of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the peacekeeping backstopping function at United Nations Headquarters in general was still required.

24. Many delegations requested clarification on the procedures for the selection of senior commanders in the field, particularly as pertains to the systematic analysis of applications, and queried the use of outside assistance by the Secretariat in identifying and interviewing potential Chief Administrative Officers in peacekeeping operations. Interest was expressed in obtaining further information regarding the Secretariat's policy on the granting of waivers for its staff to testify before the international war crimes tribunals, particularly with respect to those organizational interests, which might preclude the granting of such waivers. Many delegations stressed the need for full cooperation with the Member States concerned on tracking peacekeepers' misconduct.

25. Many delegations requested clarification on whether a standard set of rules of engagement had been applied to all contingents in all missions, and suggested that the Committee should be apprised of the details of significant and innovative changes to the rules of engagement.

26. Many delegations welcomed the issuance of standing instructions to force commanders to ensure that peacekeepers under their command abide by international

humanitarian law. It was suggested, however, that a frank and open discussion on guidelines in this regard was required prior to their promulgation.

27. Many delegations urged the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to look into further integrating the work of the Lessons Learned Unit into the planning process for new missions.

28. A number of delegations also attached importance to current demining efforts and expressed support for the work of the United Nations Mine Action Service.

29. Strong concerns were raised about the United Nations Trust Fund mechanism, especially regarding the time required to disburse funds, and the built-in support cost.

30. Many delegations stressed that the model status-of-forces agreement should pass through the applicable legislative channels prior to its finalization. Caution was raised against the uniform application of model status-of-forces agreements without regard for the specific nature of each peacekeeping operation and the particularities of host countries.

31. Delegations overwhelmingly paid tribute to the peacekeepers that had lost their lives in the past year, and deplored that deliberate attacks on unarmed personnel were becoming more frequent. They urged the Secretariat to treat as a priority those measures which would enhance the security and safety of peacekeepers in the field. They called upon host countries to abide by their legal obligations to ensure the security and safety of peacekeepers, and urged Member States to continue to ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, which had entered into force on 15 January 1999. Many delegations also urged Member States to sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (A/CONF.183/9). It was suggested that consideration be given to incorporating aspects of that Convention and other relevant legal instruments into the status-of-forces agreements. Many delegations also suggested that the discrepancy between the resources provided to peacekeepers and the mandates they were expected to implement could have a negative effect upon the security environments in which they operated.

32. The importance of providing adequate information on peacekeeping operations was underlined as a means to preclude misunderstanding and to build trust and support. A number of delegations stressed the importance of involving peacekeepers more at the community level, and of attaching greater importance to public information activities and force discipline in general, particularly as a means of enhancing the security of personnel. Many delegations welcomed the provision of bulletproof and mine-protected vehicles to the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, and urged consideration of the deployment of such vehicles to other missions, provided that the procurement of those items was conducted with due regard for equitable geographic distribution.

33. A number of delegations emphasized the critical importance of training peacekeepers, and in that regard, expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Training Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations over the past year. Several delegations also recalled that training, in and of itself, would not be sufficient to sustain the regional and subregional efforts in Africa, and noted the need for increased financial and logistical support to such efforts.

34. Many delegations emphasized the need for guidelines on general principles regarding the role of civilian police in peacekeeping operations. Some delegations emphasized that the tasks assigned to military units and civilian police should be clearly distinguished.

35. Highlighting the increasingly prominent and critical role played by civilian police in recent peacekeeping operations, a number of delegations commended the Secretariat for progress made in enhancing their effectiveness through such initiatives as the selection assistance teams and related training programmes.

36. Many delegations emphasized the importance for the Secretariat to continue to enhance its rapid deployment capacities, through such initiatives as the standby arrangements system and the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters. It was suggested that the standby arrangements system and the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters be integrated with a refined start-up kits concept in a more timely and effective method of arranging support contracts and start-up financing arrangements for new missions, and attention was drawn to the importance of the integration of newly developed contingent-owned equipment concepts as early as possible in the mission planning phase of peacekeeping operations. Many delegations requested clarification on the specific tasks assigned to the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters vis-à-vis the Mission Planning Service as a whole. Many other delegations urged that military expertise be quickly added to the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters.

37. Delegations overwhelmingly expressed grave concern that the current financial crisis facing the United Nations continues to hamper its ability to conduct peacekeeping operations. They called upon all Member States to meet their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations by settling outstanding payments in full, on time and without

conditions. Many delegations expressed concern at the particularly adverse impact of the non-payment of assessed contributions and delays in reimbursement and in the settlement of outstanding death and disability claims on troop-contributing developing countries.

38. Many delegations urged that developing countries be considered for a larger share of procurement for peacekeeping operations, and urged that special consideration be given to troop-contributing developing countries in that regard. Many delegations underlined the importance of transparency within the procurement process and that detailed information on it should be made accessible in a user-friendly format.

39. Many delegations welcomed current trends towards the increasing involvement of regional and subregional organizations in peacekeeping and related operations, but many delegations also stressed that such efforts must have a clear mandate of the Security Council and must be in strict accordance with the letter and spirit of the Charter, in particular Chapter VIII. Some delegations expressed strong concerns about the use of force, in particular by regional organizations or ad hoc "coalitions", and especially without authorization from the Security Council; they characterized such actions as undermining the credibility and authority of the Security Council. It was also suggested that the nature and scope of the role played by regional organizations should be conditioned upon the seriousness of the crisis, and could permit a broader situation-specific sharing of responsibilities and costs between them and the United Nations. Some delegations strongly emphasized the primary responsibility of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

40. A number of delegations concurred that it was important to strengthen early warning mechanisms to head off potential disputes before they erupted into violent confrontation. With respect to early warning and peacemaking, several delegations urged that the international community continue to support the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

41. A number of delegations expressed support for the Secretariat's efforts to enhance African peacekeeping capacities in general, as illustrated in the Secretary-General's most recent report, dated 12 February 1999 to the General Assembly and Security Council on the subject (A/54/63–S/1999/171). It was noted that the working group referred to in paragraph 27 of the report has not yet been established. At the same time, many delegations emphasized strongly that efforts aiming at enhancing the capacity of African countries in the field of peacekeeping should not substitute for nor should they be allowed to dilute the Security Council's obligations under the Charter.

42. In seeking to assure the continued effectiveness of the Special Committee, a number of delegations stressed the importance of providing detailed recommendations and realistic and consistent policy and guidance to the Secretariat and other United Nations bodies, as appropriate. In order to avoid a time-lag between the issuance of the Special Committee's report and the General Assembly's adoption of its recommendations, many delegations proposed that the Fourth Committee meet in resumed session shortly after the Special Committee had finalized its report to consider its findings. One delegation, referring to paragraph 114 of the Committee's previous report, urged the Bureau to hold consultations with all concerned, and to suggest a future course of action regarding the composition of the Bureau and the working methods of the Special Committee.

III. Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

43. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that peacekeeping continues to be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The mandate of the Special Committee, as the only forum in the United Nations to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct peacekeeping operations, uniquely enables it to make a significant contribution to issues and policy relating to peacekeeping operations. It encourages other bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on peacekeeping operations.

44. The Special Committee pays tribute to the high level of professionalism, dedication and courage displayed by the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security. The Special Committee draws attention to the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations

peacekeeping held on 6 October 1998, at which the General Assembly adopted the relevant declaration (resolution 53/2, annex) based on the recommendations of the Special Committee.

45. While noting trends of the past few years towards decreasing the overall number of deployed troops and reduced peacekeeping budgets, as well as the increased complexity of peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be in an effective position to maintain international peace and security, *inter alia*, by improving the capacity to assess conflict situations, by effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations, and by responding quickly and effectively to any Security Council mandate.

46. Since the end of the Cold War, there has been an increase in the number of complex peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee takes note that the Security Council has recently mandated peacekeeping operations, under the provisions of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, have included a number of other mandated activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of an effective Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is structured efficiently and staffed adequately.

47. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of peacekeeping operations, and also emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as peacekeeping definitions, in a systematic fashion.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

48. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

49. The Special Committee believes that respect for basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence, is essential to its success.

50. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner with political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security.

51. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee notes the statement by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38), with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peace-building elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before they are incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peace-building activities.

52. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, as well as secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, congruity between mandates, resources and objectives. It emphasizes further that, when changes are made to existing mandates, commensurate changes should be made to the resources available to the peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in a mandate during a mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council, including military advice, of the implications on the ground. The Committee also believes that such changes in mandates should occur after full discussion between contributing countries and the Council.

53. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of the United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations devolves upon the Security Council, while their execution remains the responsibility of the Secretary-General.

C. Consultations

54. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 53 of its previous report (A/53/127) concerning consultations between troop contributors and the Security Council, encourages the Security Council to continue to take more formal steps to ensure the rigorous, timely and systematic implementation of the arrangements set out in the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 March 1996 (S/PRST/1996/13) and as amplified in the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 October 1998 (S/1998/1016). The Special Committee stresses the need, in the case of upcoming peacekeeping operations or the expansion of existing operations, to invite prospective troop contributors to consultations at the earliest possible stage in order to provide them with access to information required and to enable them to make an informed decision on participation. The Special Committee also emphasizes that the consultations on mandates and those on operational questions are chaired by the President of the Security Council and by the Secretariat, respectively. Furthermore, it encourages the Secretary-General to ensure, where applicable, that his reports are made available to the troop contributors in a timely fashion prior to any consultations. The Special Committee encourages active participation in such meetings.

55. The Special Committee, acknowledging the above-mentioned note by the President of the Security Council dated 30 October 1998, requests that the weekly situation reports distributed to members of the Security Council be made available to all troop contributors, including those which have expressed an interest in contributing to peacekeeping operations. In that regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to consider ways of informing troop contributors more frequently of the situation on the ground. The Special Committee attaches considerable importance to the continued publication of the monthly peacekeeping strength report and requests the Secretariat to reinstate its availability. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to ensure the availability of those reports.

56. The Special Committee draws the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that the latter's policies directly affecting the participation of Member States in peacekeeping operations have not always benefited from full transparency and consultation. The consequences of the lack of consultation are illustrated by the recent formulation of the new policy on the minimum age of peacekeepers. While the Special Committee notes the Secretariat's explanation of the rationale underlying selection of a specific age criteria for peacekeepers, it emphasizes that considerable concern on the part of several Member States could have been avoided had this explanation been offered through a consultative process. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that the Special Committee is consulted when developing policy on issues affecting peacekeeping personnel.

57. The Special Committee emphasizes that consultation with the Member State concerned is necessary when mission authorities take any action including repatriation or investigation in the event of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel. In this context, the Special Committee emphasizes that national contingent commanders have the sole authority for any disciplinary actions in respect of misconduct by a member of their contingent. The Committee draws attention to the fact that national legislation may, in some instances, preclude a Member State from taking any disciplinary action following repatriation of its involved personnel if mission authorities have already taken unilateral in-theatre action. Noting the Secretary-General's advice, contained in paragraph 44 in his progress report (A/AC.121/43), that the Secretariat has undertaken several measures to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to address misconduct by peacekeeping personnel, the Committee requests the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with Member States, a set of guidelines governing action to be taken in such instances.

58. The Special Committee notes that the arrangements described in the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 March 1996, regarding consultations with troop-contributing countries, are not exhaustive and that they do not preclude a variety of forms of consultation, including, where appropriate, between the President of the Security Council (or its members) and contributors, countries especially affected by the conflict situation under discussion and other countries from the region concerned. The Special Committee encourages the Security Council to be mindful of this point.

D. Enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for peacekeeping

1. Personnel

59. The Special Committee reaffirms that all provisions of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter should be fully and strictly observed in the management and conduct of peacekeeping operations.

60. The Special Committee stresses the need for greater coordination to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts

within the United Nations system. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue developing effective administrative and logistics mechanisms and procedures. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to pursue more actively structural changes which enhance the United Nations capacity for the effective planning, conduct and support of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to review the structures in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in consultation with the appropriate United Nations oversight bodies. The outcome of that review should be reported to the Special Committee.

61. Full consideration must be given to all offers made by Member States to participate in peacekeeping operations and the Member States concerned should be advised of the reasons underlying the Department's decision not to accept their offered contribution.

62. The Special Committee recognizes the unique contributions which active-duty military and civilian police personnel make to peacekeeping operations at Headquarters and recommends that all future staffing decisions ensure that such personnel are adequately represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and that they continue to be actively involved in its work. The Special Committee strongly requests that Member States be given adequate time in which to select and nominate their officers, preferably no less than 90 days, upon issuing the vacancy announcements.

63. The Special Committee notes that the phasing out of Type II gratis personnel in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has been completed. The Special Committee expresses concern at the lack of an effective transition plan with respect to staff recruitment to minimize disruption, loss of continuity and expertise. In this context, the Special Committee underlines the importance of maintaining the highest level of expertise and takes note of measures taken towards that end by the Secretariat.

64. Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997, the Special Committee notes the adoption of Assembly resolution 53/221 of 7 April 1999 on human resources management, in which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, "urges the Secretary-General, when making appointments to posts subject to geographical distribution, to continue and intensify his efforts to ensure that all Member States, in particular unrepresented and under-represented Member States, are adequately represented in the Secretariat" regular budget posts related to peacekeeping operations. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Special Committee recalls in this context, that the paramount consideration shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's assurances that vacancies will be announced to Member States in a more timely fashion in future, as well as the plan to implement a three-year cyclical recruitment/rotation programme.

65. The Special Committee recognizes the increasing need for the participation of female personnel, on a broad geographical basis, in all aspects of peacekeeping operations. The Committee encourages the development and implementation of innovative strategies to further that aim and recommends that an analysis of the effectiveness of such strategies be included in the reports of the Secretary-General on peacekeeping operations.

66. The Special Committee stresses the importance of having senior military commanders, police commissioners and key staff personnel well selected and prepared prior to their deployment to a peacekeeping operation. Recognizing that selection is based on mission requirements and professional merit, with due regard given to geographic distribution and political considerations, a more thorough review of candidates for selected personnel is recommended.

67. Therefore, the Special Committee reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, made in paragraph 62 of its previous report (A/53/127), for improvement of the current method by which senior military commanders and police commissioners are selected, and that he consider the feasibility of mandatory interviews. The Special Committee believes that the criteria for selection should include professional experience and other personal qualities such as good judgement, common sense and an ability to work in a multinational peacekeeping environment.

68. The Special Committee is encouraged by the establishment of the three-month training programme for potential chief administrative officer/senior management candidates. Recruitment of highly qualified chief administrative officers remains a concern as peacekeeping operations and their administration become increasingly complex. The Special Committee notes the Secretariat's assurance that there are no plans to engage outside commercial firms in recruiting chief administrative officers. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to include in the training programme the role of the chief administrative officer in the preparation of mission budgets.

69. The Special Committee takes note of paragraphs 19 to 21 of the Secretary-General's report (A/AC.121/43), as well as the statement presented by the Office of Legal Affairs, and calls upon the Secretariat to work closely with the ad hoc international criminal tribunals on all matters relating

to the provision of testimony by all concerned United Nations peacekeepers before the tribunals. The Special Committee requests that the Secretariat keep Member States continuously apprised of all developments in this regard.

70. The Special Committee notes that the progress report does not indicate the status of the sample rules of engagement. The Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's intention to consult with the Special Committee prior to finalizing the sample rules of engagement. It further calls on the Secretary-General to consult with Member States, through the Special Committee, prior to making any significant changes to the sample rules of engagement, and with both present and prospective personnel contributors prior to any similar changes to mission rules of engagement.

2. Organization, planning and coordination

71. The Special Committee notes the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the proposed structural changes to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and requests the Secretary-General to include an assessment of this new structure in his next progress report.

72. The Special Committee notes the importance of early planning and regular or day-to-day coordination for peacekeeping operations and other mandated activities designed to reduce the risk of resumption of conflict and to contribute to creating the conditions most conducive to reconciliation, reconstruction and recovery. To this end, the Special Committee takes note of the participation of the Department in the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and the strengthening of interdepartmental coordination. While there is improved coordination at the executive level, the Special Committee emphasizes the need to strengthen working-level consultations among departments and United Nations agencies to avoid duplication and overlap and to improve effectiveness.

73. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of exercising transparency in selecting troop contributors, in particular in the use of the United Nations standby arrangements system. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to promulgate, in its next report, a policy on the use of the system, which enunciates the procedures for the selection of troop contributors for new missions and for replacements in established missions. The Special Committee welcomes increased contributions of Member States to standby arrangements system, and encourages other Member States which have not already done so to join it. The Committee also encourages the Secretariat to consult first with contributors to the system and also with other Member States regarding necessary capabilities to overcome existing deficiencies referred to by the Secretary-General in his report of 30 March 1999 (S/1999/361).

74. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made to improve the coordination of military and civilian components of peacekeeping operations. It encourages the Secretariat to continue its integrated approach both at Headquarters and field levels. The role of the Chief Administrative Officer in ensuring that field personnel are aware of United Nations rules, regulations and procedures is welcome. The Special Committee stresses the importance of Chief Administrative Officers being regularly informed on changes to United Nations rules, regulations and procedures, and consulted on potential changes.

75. The Special Committee stresses the importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of peacekeeping operations and is disappointed at the delays in fully implementing the United Nations Common Supplier Database. The Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's proactive efforts to make procurement information available to prospective vendors and encourages further innovative, accessible and user-friendly approaches for accelerated dissemination of accurate procurement information in a timely manner. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to implement fully and expeditiously General Assembly resolution 52/226 of 31 March 1998, in particular paragraphs 13, 14, 15 and 19.

76. The Special Committee recognizes that shortened procurement times are required should the United Nations wish to fulfil its commitment to react swiftly to conflicts and to deploy rapidly. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of the procurement process. The Special Committee also requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on procurement reform a section addressing field procurement, with particular emphasis on a more flexible and timely contracting mechanism for new missions, including local procurement, where applicable.

77. On the issue of transparency, the Special Committee notes with dissatisfaction that the progress report (A/AC.121/43) indicates that little further work is anticipated in promoting the level of detail in which the United Nations Common Supplier Database can report on procurement activity. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretariat's assurances that, if requested, details of each and every item would be made accessible to any Member State. It encourages interested Member States to contribute

in cash or in kind to the programme for providing procurement information via video and CD-ROM.

78. The Special Committee welcomes the progress achieved in developing a flexible and comprehensive logistic strategy to accommodate a wide range in variety and complexity of peacekeeping operations. It notes the list of outputs which the Secretariat intends to pursue over the next year. In particular, the Special Committee supports the intended structure of the Operational Support Manual, especially current plans to harmonize it with other related manuals. The Special Committee requests details and an update on these issues in the next progress report.

79. The Special Committee commends the use of start-up kits in supporting the rapid deployment of troops to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA) and the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), and notes the importance of that concept to United Nations rapid deployment capability. It recommends the speedy implementation of the field assets control system to more missions so that an assessment can be completed. The Special Committee requests that an update on the review of the contents of the start-up kits and the status of implementing the field assets control system be included in the next progress report.

80. As regards the procedures governing contingent-owned equipment, the Special Committee calls, once again, for the timely implementation of the recommendations of the Phase IV Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment (A/C.5/52/39). It regrets the delay of the Secretary-General's report on the first year of implementation and calls upon the Secretary-General to convene the Phase V Working Group as soon as possible. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant agenda and discussion documentation is provided to Member States in sufficient time so as to permit full consultation with technical staff in capitals, as well as to plan for appropriate technical representation within national delegations.

81. Recognizing the role of the United Nations Mine Action Service as the focal point for coordinating mine action, the Special Committee welcomes the progress noted in the report of the Secretary-General. The Special Committee encourages that coordination between United Nations departments, funds and programmes continue in that respect. The Special Committee also encourages Member States to contribute and make pledges to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The Special Committee reiterates its request that the Secretary-General provide an update by the end of 1999 on the experiences of the United Nations in demining in peacekeeping operations, taking into account inputs from those involved in such activities.

82. The Special Committee, stressing that the norms of international humanitarian law should be strictly observed by all personnel associated with United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations, urges that the appropriate guidelines for peacekeepers be finalized as soon as possible in consultations with the Special Committee.

83. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to differentiate between peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance. However, if the protection of humanitarian assistance is a mandated task of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, the Committee is of the view that both should be coordinated, in order to ensure that they are not working at cross purposes and that the impartiality of humanitarian assistance is ensured. In that context, the Committee takes note of the statements by the President of the Security Council of 19 June 1997 (S/PRST/1997/34) and of 29 September 1998 (S/PRST/1998/30), and of the report of the Secretary-General of 22 September 1998 (S/1998/883), all of which underlined the importance of ensuring clear, appropriate and realistic mandates to be implemented in a timely, effective and impartial manner, as well as ensuring adequate resources to United Nations peacekeeping operations established or authorized to protect humanitarian assistance in conflict situations. The Special Committee emphasizes that the conduct of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities does not absolve host Governments and parties to the conflicts from their responsibility towards the victims of a conflict among populations.

84. The Special Committee strongly endorses the role which effective public information can play in enhancing personnel safety and security, and encourages the Secretariat to incorporate that feature into its public information policy for peacekeeping operations. In that regard, the Special Committee welcomes the results of effective employment of the public information function as an integral part of peacekeeping operations, especially the cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information. It encourages Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund to support public information and related efforts in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee, acknowledging the importance of a United Nations public information capacity, especially radio, encourages the incorporation of public information planning and the identification of the necessary resources into the earliest possible phases of mission planning. The Special Committee also endorses the inclusion of a public information authority

from host Governments in the applicable status-of-forces agreements/status-of-mission agreements. The Special Committee urges the enhancement of public information capability at the mission level by widening public access to reliable and objective information.

85. Taking into account that lessons learned from previous missions are essential for conducting future operations, the Special Committee notes the activities undertaken by the Lessons Learned Unit during the past year and its objectives for the coming year. The Special Committee invites the Secretariat to consider the validation of conclusions drawn by the Unit. The Special Committee requests that the Unit consider how it might enhance the relevance of its work at the tactical and field levels. It also requests the Secretary-General to include those issues in his next progress report to the Special Committee.

3. Status-of-forces agreements

86. The Special Committee is disappointed that the compendium of instances in which the Organization is due restitution, as a result of non-compliance with status-of-forces agreements or other agreements, is still not completed. It reiterates the need for the Secretary-General to fulfil the request made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report of 14 October 1996 (A/51/491) to provide the compendium and to withhold claims submitted by Member States concerned until the matter of expenditures is resolved.

87. The Special Committee, noting that a draft version of the model status-of-forces agreement has been prepared, urges its early finalization and promulgation and recommends that the Secretariat ensure that the model status-of-forces agreement contains specific and practical measures which reinforce and guarantee the responsibility of host Governments to ensure the physical security of United Nations and associated personnel employed in peacekeeping operations.

4. Safety and Security

88. The Special Committee expresses its grave concern at the growing number of attacks and acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel. In that connection, the Special Committee recalls the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 March 1997 (S/PRST/1997/13), in which he emphasized that host countries and others concerned must take all appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of those personnel. The Special Committee takes note of the progress achieved in the legal protection of the security of United Nations and associated personnel, *inter alia*, the entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The Special Committee urges those States which have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention as soon as possible. At the same time, the Special Committee takes note of the need to explore the scope of further ensuring the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel.

89. The Special Committee reaffirms that safety and security constitute integral elements of the planning and conduct of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee stresses the need for peacekeeping forces to be properly configured and discrepancies between mandates and resources avoided. It recognizes that elaboration of a comprehensive security plan at the commencement of a peacekeeping operation is essential. On a broader level, the Special Committee also notes the initiative by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to conduct a general and comprehensive review of security requirements. Therefore, and in response to the Secretary-General's requests for assistance, the Committee encourages the Secretariat to seek the views of Member States in an open-ended working group or seminar on safety and security of United Nations personnel in peacekeeping operations. The Committee also stresses the need for adequate budgetary provisions to ensure the security of peacekeeping personnel. The Committee further notes the Secretariat's development of the conceptual approach over the Composite Observation and Monitoring Force.

90. The Special Committee also encourages the Secretariat to ensure an efficient and continuous flow of information to Member States in all phases of peacekeeping operations, especially prior to evacuation, in the immediate wake of tragic developments, or in periods of crises. The Special Committee requests that, when a crisis affects the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, the Secretariat make full and immediate information available to the permanent missions concerned. It also urges the Secretariat to review continuously the safety of flight operations with its field personnel and, in the event of a tragic occurrence, to share without delay the results of any subsequent investigation with all contributors to the mission.

91. The Special Committee observes that the above request should also apply in the case of personnel employed in other field activities controlled by the United Nations Secretariat who might face similar risks. To that end, the Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Situation Centre coordinate fully with other relevant departments and United Nations agencies

with a view to its becoming the main point of contact for permanent missions in such circumstances.

5. Training

92. The Special Committee acknowledges the substantial work accomplished by the Training Unit. It remains concerned, however, that training materials are not available in all of the official languages of the United Nations. It encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts in this regard, and to include information on the matter in the next progress report.

93. The Special Committee welcomes the publication of selection and training standards for military observers and civilian police, as well as the use of current technology in providing a directory of current United Nations publications on CD-ROM.

94. The Special Committee requests that the Secretary-General seek appropriate staffing levels to ensure that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Training Unit is able to maintain its current programmes, including the United Nations Training Assistance Teams programme and other essential capacities, such as the planning and conduct of regional peacekeeping training programmes and the maintenance of the peacekeeping databases. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to find innovative means to supplement the current Departmental training capacity, in collaboration with Member States.

95. The Special Committee, noting the increasingly close and direct contact between United Nations peacekeeping personnel and local populations during peacekeeping operations, stresses the importance of participants in peacekeeping operations being given, prior to deployment, specific training which addresses local cultural sensitivities, including, where appropriate and applicable, gender-sensitivity training. The Committee encourages the Secretariat, as well as Member States, to include and develop that aspect in their efforts to promote training norms for United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

6. Civilian police

96. The Special Committee encourages efforts by the Secretariat to hold a follow-up meeting to the March 1998 Civilian Police Seminar and to coordinate further initiatives in that area.

97. The Special Committee reiterates the need to strengthen the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Civilian Police Unit as well as to enhance the role of the Civilian Police Advisor, and notes the failure by the Secretariat to fill all posts in the Unit, despite the General Assembly authorizing full staffing in mid-1998. This staffing delay jeopardizes the Unit's ability to maintain its past progress on civilian police issues. The Special Committee requests that the Secretariat explain and clarify the staffing procedures for recruiting and selecting seconded personnel to the Civilian Police Unit.

98. The Special Committee reiterates its request, paragraph 95 of its previous report that the Secretariat develop draft guidelines on general principles regarding the role of civilian police as soon as possible and provide an update in next year's progress report.

99. The Special Committee welcomes the completion of a draft set of standard operating procedures for civilian police operations, including a detailed code of conduct for civilian police officers, the publication of the selection and training standards for civilian police and the extraction of lessons learned from previous civilian police operations.

100. The Special Committee considers that, in conducting a peacekeeping operation, care should be taken to ensure that, consistent with the mandate, police and military tasks should be clearly differentiated.

101. The Special Committee emphasizes that the Training Unit's activities should take into account the increased requirements of civilian police in peacekeeping operations, and calls for enhanced cooperation between Member States in training civilian police personnel for United Nations peacekeeping operations, pursuant to United Nations training standards. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on the workshops being conducted by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in that regard in his next progress report.

7. Standby arrangements and rapid deployment

102. The Special Committee welcomes the increased commitment by Member States in providing specialized units to the United Nations standby arrangements system. It notes that the system should be further developed to enhance United Nations rapid deployment capabilities, including broadening the base of Member States making resources available, especially specialized capabilities and working with the Secretariat to improve deployment response times.

103. The Special Committee notes that the United Nations rapid deployment capability is a comprehensive concept which includes such elements as the operation of the United Nations standby arrangements system, the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, initiation of the

contingent-owned equipment negotiation process early in the mission planning process, the availability of an effective mission start-up funding mechanism, the effective integration of support mechanisms, such as the start-up kit concept and the role of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, and the development of timely and adequate in-theatre quick-activation contracting mechanisms for support.

104. Where critical mission start-up *matériel* and services are subject to extended procurement lead times, the Secretariat is encouraged to maintain a minimum stock of such items on hand. The Special Committee also recommends that the appropriate General Assembly bodies explore additional contracting authority mechanisms to permit accelerated procurement for such items.

105. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the Organization being able to respond and deploy rapidly to a peacekeeping operation upon the adoption of a Security Council mandate. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretariat's explanation of the difference between the roles and responsibilities of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters and Mission Planning Services. To enhance the total United Nations rapid deployment capability, the Special Committee calls for the full establishment of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters by adding the requisite military expertise. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to identify key staff for temporary field assignment, especially in the case of new operations.

106. The Special Committee emphasizes that the critical importance of the contingent-owned equipment concept goes beyond its utility as a financial mechanism for determining cost recovery between the United Nations and Member States. The concept is vital to mission and mission support planning as well as to mission budgeting, on the part of both the United Nations and the Member State concerned. As noted earlier in the present report, contingent-owned equipment is an indispensable element in an effective United Nations rapid deployment capability. The Special Committee supports linking contingent-owned equipment to the United Nations standby arrangements system in order to realize its full potential to rapid deployment capability. In that respect, the Special Committee calls upon all Member States which have subscribed to the standby arrangements system to initiate, in collaboration with the Secretariat, development of applicable contingent-owned equipment memoranda of understanding.

8. Finances

107. The Special Committee stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, and it reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

108. The delay in reimbursements to troop contributors remains a deep concern for the Special Committee. Such delays in reimbursement cause hardship to all troop and equipment-contributing countries, especially developing countries. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to expedite the processing of all claims and urges the Secretariat to process the backlog claims expeditiously.

109. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General to sensitize all departments involved in the peacekeeping reimbursement process to the need to resolve current delays in reimbursing Member States for such costs as soon as funds are available. The Special Committee emphasizes that its key concern in such cases is the timeliness of the reimbursement mechanism and procedures. The Special Committee reiterates the high degree of correlation between timely reimbursement and the willingness and ability of Member States to participate and sustain their participation in peacekeeping operations.

110. The Special Committee notes the concerns of some Member States regarding medical aspects of peacekeeping operations, such as the identification of medically high-risk areas, pre-deployment immunization costs and costs incurred for necessary post-repatriation treatment of peacekeeping personnel. The first issue was raised following the meeting of the Phase IV Working Group on Reimbursement of Contingent-owned Equipment, but was not addressed by the Secretariat. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to address these issues, in cooperation with Member States, in an appropriate forum of experts.

111. The Special Committee, recalling General Assembly resolutions 51/218 E of 17 June 1997 and 52/177 of 18 December 1997, establishing uniform and standardized rates for payment of awards in case of death and disability, requests the Secretariat, in order to alleviate the hardship of the affected families, promptly to settle claims of compensation on account of death and disability suffered while in service with United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee stresses that death and disability claims filed with the Secretariat prior to 1 July 1997 should be settled expeditiously. The Special Committee

recognizes that, in certain cases, the long treatment period of a disability may prevent a State from filing a claim to the Secretariat in a timely manner. The Committee requests the Secretariat to accept preliminary notification from the concerned Member State to this effect and accept the disability claim at a later stage on the basis of such notification. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to monitor periodically, in cooperation with the Member State concerned, disability cases, preferably on a semi-annual basis, from the date of occurrence through medical certification, until the Government presents the claim, or for a maximum of five years to maintain contact with the situation and to support the affected persons morally.

112. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General to address as a matter of priority the operational and financial liquidation of completed operations.

113. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to refine the present mission start-up budgeting mechanism as another vital element in a rapid deployment capability. This mechanism must include provisions for the enhancement of the security of United Nations and associated personnel, as well as the resources to allow the United Nations to discharge its obligation to contributing Member States in accordance with negotiated contingent-owned equipment memorandum agreements or understandings.

114. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to take steps for the timely and efficient disbursement from United Nations trust funds on urgent United Nations authorized peacekeeping operational activities. The Committee further requests the Secretary-General, in his next progress report, to identify clearly these Trust Funds and their impact on peacekeeping operations and to advise the Committee of the steps taken to ensure their timely disbursement. The Secretary-General is also requested to keep the Committee informed of the terms of reference of any trust fund that may be established in the future for peacekeeping operations.

E. Cooperation with regional arrangements

115. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping in that regard, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate and when the mandate and scope of regional arrangements and agencies legally allow them to do so.

116. The Special Committee emphasizes that, in accordance with Article 53 of the Charter, no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council. Furthermore, the Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or contemplated by regional arrangements or regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

117. The Special Committee urges the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies within their respective mandates, scope and composition to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security. It appreciates the possibility of the practical realization of such cooperation at the regional and subregional levels and also encourages the Secretary-General to take concrete steps towards that end. In that regard, the Committee notes the successful experience of cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional and subregional arrangements and agencies.

118. The Special Committee stresses that cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies in the context of peacekeeping must abide by the letter and spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter. Such cooperation must also take into account the existing instruments and mechanisms operating in each of the regional arrangements and agencies concerned.

119. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity (A/54/63–S/1999/171), and the recommendations contained therein. The Special Committee also notes that, contrary to the comments in the report, the proposed working group on training assistance to African countries in the field of peacekeeping has not yet been established and asks Member States to take such a decision as soon as possible. It expresses concern that the Secretariat has not yet circulated to Member States its proposals for the establishment of a working group and urges it to do so without further delay.

120. The Special Committee is of the view that efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries in the various aspects of peacekeeping are complementary to the obligations of all United Nations Member States under the Charter of the United Nations with regard to their contribution in maintaining peace and security in Africa, and are not intended to replace or reduce engagement of non-African countries in peacekeeping operations in the continent.

121. The Special Committee stresses that international efforts aimed at enhancing the collective capacity of African countries to participate in peacekeeping operations should focus on enhancing the institutional capacity of OAU and in particular its Mechanism for the Prevention, Management, and Resolution of Conflicts, through the provision of financial and technical assistance. In this connection, the Special Committee underlines the relevance and importance of the OAU Peace Fund, and urges Member States to contribute to it.

122. The Special Committee encourages Member States to contribute to current efforts aimed at enhancing the participation of African countries in peacekeeping operations, *inter alia*, through partnerships between States, and with OAU and subregional organizations in the fields of training, logistics, equipment and financial support. The Special Committee reiterates its view that the United Nations, in consultation with OAU and with the cooperation of Member States, should play an active role, especially in coordinating all those efforts and urges Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General for that purpose. It also encourages Member States to provide financial and other support to current peacekeeping operations conducted by African subregional organizations.

123. The Special Committee notes that the Lessons Learned Unit is finalizing its study on cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements and agencies. It urges that the study be made available to Member States, as well as regional arrangements and agencies as soon as possible.

F. Other matters

124. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, the timely issuance of which enabled Member States to study it and enter into a constructive dialogue with the Secretariat. The Special Committee encourages similar timeliness for future reports.

125. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of its recommendations contained in the present report, on which specific reports have not been requested, six weeks prior to its 2000 session.

126. The Special Committee undertook a review of its relationship with the General Assembly and is of the view that it needs to be enhanced so as to enable the work of the Special Committee to be more efficient and allow for closer consultation with the Secretariat on peacekeeping issues. To that effect, the Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following procedure, to be implemented during the fifty-fourth session of the Assembly:

(a) The Special Committee requests that its report be circulated in official form no later than four weeks after the completion of its substantive session so that it can be considered and adopted in resumed sessions of the Fourth Committee and of the General Assembly as soon as possible.

(b) The deliberations on the item on peacekeeping in the Fourth Committee during the following regular session of the General Assembly would begin with a presentation by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation of the Special Committee's recommendations. An informal exchange between the members of the Fourth Committee and the Secretariat would follow on the substance of that oral briefing. The Member States would then have the opportunity to participate in a general debate of the Fourth Committee on peacekeeping issues. Thereafter, the Fourth Committee would suspend consideration of the item until the resumption of its work in the following spring for the adoption of the next report of the Special Committee.

(c) The Special Committee requests that the Secretary-General circulate his annual report on progress made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee at least six weeks prior to the start of its substantive session.

127. The Special Committee notes that this procedure should be implemented within existing resources.

128. The Special Committee agrees to review the proposed procedure during its next session.

129. The Special Committee welcomes the practice of being briefed informally on peacekeeping operations by the President of the Security Council in his national capacity.

130. The Special Committee highly appreciates the international seminars on peacekeeping operations arranged by Member States and encourages the conduct of such seminars in the future. Such seminars provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences and develop a better understanding of the various facets of peacekeeping. The Special Committee commends all Member States who actively pursue a greater understanding of peacekeeping, and, specifically, those countries willing to host conferences distinguished by their very wide participation. A list of seminars and conferences organized by Member States on peacekeeping operations that were held in 1998 is contained in annex III to the present report.

Annex I

Briefings to the 1999 session of the Special Committee

1. In a series of presentations and exchanges of views with delegations, the Secretariat briefed the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations from 30 March to 5 April 1999 on a number of the aspects of peacekeeping under consideration.

2. Briefings began with comments from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who briefed the Special Committee on questions related to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations which had been raised in the course of the general debate. In particular, he discussed with delegations modifications to departmental structure and the phasing out of gratis personnel; he also addressed specific concerns arising out of the United Nations plane crashes in Angola. At the same time, a representative of the Office of Legal Affairs offered a brief response to questions from a delegation regarding the issue of waivers for United Nations personnel asked to testify before international tribunals.

3. With regard to personnel issues, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women made a presentation to the Committee on the subject of gender mainstreaming.

4. On issues regarding organization and planning, representatives from the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Special Committee on the concept of practical disarmament and mandates for disarmament within peacekeeping operations. A representative of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations delivered a briefing on the development of rules of engagement for peacekeeping operations.

5. The Committee also received a briefing from the Office of Central Support Services on procurement as it relates to peacekeeping.

6. The Secretariat's presentation to the Committee on demining capability highlighted the new focal point for demining activities, the United Nations Mine Action Service, and its establishment within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

7. The Secretariat's briefing on the topic of logistics and financial support to peacekeeping addressed logistics concept and regulatory framework, rapid deployment capacity, human resources, and finance issues.

8. The role of public information was addressed by a representative of the Department of Public Information, both with regard to the Department's role in the mission area and as an implement to convey to world public opinion the contribution of peacekeeping.

9. The Special Committee was provided an update regarding the work of the Lessons Learned Unit in 1998, and received an outline of its future objectives.

10. With regard to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, representatives of the United Nations Security Coordinator and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided information on security arrangements and procedures, and exchanged views with delegations. A Secretariat briefing was offered on the capability to monitor events in peacekeeping mission areas, including methods of gathering information and reporting procedures. Representatives from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, together with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, addressed the relationship between peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance, with a particular reference to maintaining the security and neutrality of refugee camps.

11. The Secretariat also briefed delegations on training capacity and needs and on recent developments in the Civilian Police Unit, particularly with regard to training and recruitment.

12. With regard to standby arrangements and rapid deployment, the Special Committee was briefed on rapid deployment capability including recent developments related to the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters and standby arrangements.

13. A representative of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts briefed the Special Committee on trust fund operations in relation to the conduct of peacekeeping operations and reviewed the United Nations regulations governing the use of such funds.

14. The Secretariat briefed the Special Committee on cooperation with regional organizations in peacekeeping and on efforts to enhance regional peacekeeping capacity, particularly in Africa. A briefing on these efforts was then provided by the Organization of African Unity.

15. Apart from Secretariat briefings, the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Dejammet of France, briefed the Committee in his national capacity on issues before the Council and the relationship between the Council and troop-contributing nations. A presentation was also made by a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the Special Committee on the role played by ICRC in the context of peacekeeping operations.

Annex II

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 1999 session

Members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Observers: Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Iceland, Latvia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Switzerland, European Community, International Committee of the Red Cross, Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Annex III

Seminars and conferences held in 1998[a]

Title of conference or seminar	*Location*	*Date*	*Sponsors organizers*
1. International Demining Course	Caecopaz, Argentina	7–25 Sep	Argentina
2. Military Observer Course	Caecopaz, Argentina	14 Sep–9 Oct	Argentina
3. International Peace Academy Seminar on Peacemaking and Peacekeeping	Vienna	20–30 July	Austria, Liechtenstein, Sweden
4. International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peace-Building Training Programme	Stadtschlaining, Austria	22 Feb–21 Mar 15 June–11 July 4–31 Oct	Austria
5. Brazil-United Kingdom Seminar on Peacekeeping Operations	Brasilia	23–25 Mar	Brazil, United Kingdom
6. Brazil-Venezuela Seminar on Peacekeeping Operations	Brasilia	16–18 June	Brazil, Venezuela
7. Seminar on the Conduct of Military Actions on Peacekeeping Operations	Santiago	20–24 Oct	Chile, United States
8. Nordic/United Nations Peacekeeping Senior Management Seminar	Helsinki, New York	31 Aug–11 Nov	Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden
9. Consolidating Peace through Practical Disarmament Measures and Control of Small Arms	Berlin	2–4 July	Germany
10. International Seminar on United Nations Peacekeeping	New Delhi	17–19 Mar	India
11. United Nations Military Observer and Staff Officer Course (UNMOSOC)	Curragh Camp, Ireland	7–26 June	Ireland
12. Fifth United Nations Training Course for Military and Civilian Police Trainers	Turin, Italy	15 Apr–1 May	Italy
13. Sixth United Nations Training Course for Military and Civilian Police Trainers	Turin, Italy	4–20 Nov	Italy
14. The Changing Face of Peacekeeping: Modern Peace and Security Operations	Tokyo	22–26 Mar	Japan, Canada, Malaysia
15. Seminar on Lessons Learned from Peace Support Operations	Warsaw	18–20 Nov	Poland
16. The Sixth United Nations Peacekeeping Assistance Training Team Seminar	Warsaw	1–7 July	Poland
17. Civilian Police Strategic Planning Workshop	Washington, D.C.	7–8 Dec	United States, Argentina

[a] Seminars are listed in alphabetical order of host country; sponsors/organizers are listed in alphabetical order, with host country listed first.